

REMARKS

Applicants respectfully request reconsideration of this application, and reconsideration of the Office Action dated December 21, 2005. Upon entry of this Amendment, claims 1-13 and 16-20 will remain pending in this application. Claims 18-20 are, at present, withdrawn from consideration. The amendments to the claims are supported by the specification and original claims. No new matter is incorporated by this Amendment.

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Claims 1, 2, 4, 5, 8, 9, 10, 12-13 and 17 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e), as being anticipated by Folger et al. Claims 3, 7, 11 and 16 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103, as being unpatentable over Folger et al and further in view of official notice of common knowledge, or in the alternative, engineering design choice. These grounds of rejection is respectfully traversed.

Claim 1 is being amended to incorporate the subject matter of claims 2, 3 and 5. Claims 6-13 and 16-17 are being cancelled. New independent claim 21 includes the subject matter of original claims 1, 2, 3 and 9. New claim 22 depends from and further limits claim 21.

Folger et al. does not teach that a surface of the bearing part has a harness of HRC 60 or more, and a residual compressive stress of 30Mpa or less, as required by claim 1. It is not appropriate to assume that these characteristics are inherent to the material. These characteristics are obtained only when the appropriate materials are properly sized and heat treated in an optimal manner. Thus, the optimal combination, as expressed by claim 1, is not suggested by either of the references or their combined teachings.

Folger et al. does not suggest:

- a surface of the bearing part has a residual compressive stress of 30 Pma or less
- fabrication of a large bearing part having a predetermined shape and a hole in a cost-saving manner

- the problem of cracks during heat treatment which may inherently occur in the cost-saving fabrication process (see page 2, lines 2-19 of our specification).

Thus, one or ordinary skill in the art to which our claimed inventions pertain would not make the claimed inventions based on Folger et al alone or combined with "common knowledge" as suggested.

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Applicants respectfully submit that this response obviates all of the outstanding rejections and request entry of this response. Allowance of this application is earnestly solicited.

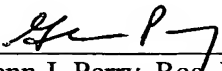
If any fees under 37 C.F.R. §§1.16 or 1.17 are due in connection with this filing, please charge the fees to Deposit Account No. 02-4300; Order No. 033737.029.

If an extension of time under 37 C.F.R. § 1.136 is necessary that is not accounted for in the papers filed herewith, such an extension is requested. The extension fee should be charged to Deposit Account No. 02-4300; Order No. 033737.029.

Respectfully submitted,

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Dated: March 9, 2006
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